

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method comprising:
2 authenticating a user of a platform during a Basic Input/Output System (BIOS)
3 boot process;
4 releasing a first keying material from a token communicatively coupled to the
5 platform in response to authenticating the user;
6 combining the first keying material with a second keying material internally
7 stored within the platform in order to produce a combination key; and
8 using the combination key to decrypt a second BIOS area to recover a second
9 segment of BIOS code.

1 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2 continuing the BIOS boot process.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein prior to authenticating the user, the
2 method comprises:
3 loading a BIOS code including a first BIOS area and a second BIOS area, the
4 first BIOS area being an encrypted first segment of the BIOS code and the second
5 BIOS area being an encrypted second segment of the BIOS code.

1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein after loading of the BIOS code, the
2 method further comprises:
3 decrypting the first BIOS area to recover the first segment of the BIOS code.

1 5. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2 unbinding keying material associated with a non-volatile storage device to
3 access contents stored within the non-volatile storage device.

1 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the combination key is a value formed
2 by performing an exclusive OR operation on both the first keying material and the
3 second keying material.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein authentication of the user is performed
2 through biometrics.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the second keying material is stored
2 within internal memory of a trusted platform module.

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the second keying material is stored
2 within a section of access-controlled system memory of the platform.

1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein prior to authenticating the user, the
2 method comprises:

3 loading a BIOS code including a first BIOS area being a first segment of the
4 BIOS code encrypted using a selected keying material; and

5 loading an integrity metric including a hash value of an identification
6 information of the platform.

1 11. The method of claim 1, wherein the identification information includes a
2 serial number of an integrated circuit device employed within the platform.

1 12. An integrated circuit device comprising:
2 a boot block memory unit; and
3 a trusted platform module communicatively coupled to the boot block memory
4 unit, the trusted platform module to produce a combination key by combining a first
5 incoming keying material with a second keying material internally stored within the
6 integrated circuit and to decrypt a second BIOS area to recover a second segment of
7 BIOS code.

1 13. The integrated circuit device of claim 12, wherein the boot block
2 memory unit to load a BIOS code including a first BIOS area and a second BIOS area,
3 the first BIOS area being an encrypted first segment of the BIOS code and the second
4 BIOS area being an encrypted second segment of the BIOS code.

1 14. The integrated circuit device of claim 13, wherein the trusted platform
2 module to decrypt the first BIOS area to recover a first segment of the BIOS code.

1 15 A platform comprising:
2 an input/output control hub (ICH);
3 a non-volatile memory unit coupled to the ICH, the non-volatile memory unit
4 including a BIOS code including a first BIOS area and a second BIOS area, the first
5 BIOS area being an encrypted first segment of the BIOS code and the second BIOS
6 area being an encrypted second segment of the BIOS code; and
7 a trusted platform module coupled to the ICH, the trusted platform module to
8 produce a combination key by combining a first incoming keying material with a
9 second keying material internally stored within the platform and to decrypt the second
10 BIOS area to recover the second segment of BIOS code.

1 16. The platform of claim 15, wherein the trusted platform module to further
2 decrypt the first BIOS area to recover the first segment of the BIOS code in an non-
3 encrypted format.

1 17. The platform of claim 15 further comprising a hard disk drive coupled to
2 the ICH.

1 18. The platform of claim 17, wherein the trusted platform module to further
2 unbind keying material associated with the hard disk drive to access contents stored
3 within the hard disk drive.

1 19. A program loaded into readable memory for execution by a trusted
2 platform module of a platform, the program comprising:
3 code to decrypt a first Basic Input/Output System (BIOS) area to recover a first
4 segment of BIOS code;
5 code to produce a combination key by combining a first incoming keying
6 material with a second keying material internally stored within the trusted platform
7 module; and
8 code to decrypt a second BIOS area to recover a second segment of the BIOS
9 code.

1 20. The program of claim 19, wherein the first BIOS area is the first
2 segment of the BIOS code encrypted with a keying material and the second BIOS area
3 is the second segment of the BIOS code encrypted with the combination key.

1 21. The program of claim 19 further comprising:
2 code to unbind keying material associated with a non-volatile storage device for
3 accessing contents stored within the non-volatile storage device.